

footsteps. Their dedication to ensuring America fulfills the promise of equal justice for all serves as a constant inspiration. I stand on the shoulders of giants in CBC, and I salute their sacrifice.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VERMONT ESSAY CONTEST

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the continued involvement of Vermont high school teachers and principals in my annual State of the Union essay contest. This year, 799 Vermont students from 39 high schools wrote essays detailing what they thought were the most important issues facing our country. We could not have achieved this level of participation without the help of engaged educators throughout the State.

Each and every day, teachers encourage students to think critically and develop their own ideas. I appreciate that so many teachers have used the essay contest to challenge their students to share what they consider to be priorities for the United States. This year's submissions were some of the most thoughtful to date, and I have no doubt that is because of the encouragement of engaged teachers from across the State.

The success of this essay contest also depends on a dedicated team of volunteer judges, all of whom are also high school teachers. This year, we asked our five judges—some of whom have served for many years—to read more essays in less time, and we greatly appreciate the serious consideration and commitment they brought to the task. I would like to take a moment to recognize this year's judges: Bradley Archer, Woodstock Union High School; Jason Gorczyk, Milton High School; Krista Huling, South Burlington High School; Roberta "Cookie" Steponaitis, Vergennes Union High School; and Terri Vest, Twinfield Union High School.

I would also like to enter into the RECORD the names of the 39 high schools that participated this year:

Arlington Memorial High School, Bellows Falls Union High School, Bellows Free Academy—Fairfax, Blue Mountain High School, Burlington High School, Burlington Technical Center, Burr & Burton Academy, Canaan Memorial High School, Champlain Valley Union High School, Colchester High School, Enosburg Falls High School, Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, Hanover High School, Hartford High School, Harwood Union High School, Leland and Gray Union High School, Mill River Union High School, Milton High School, Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Mt. Abraham Union High School, Mt. Anthony Union High School, North Country Union High School, Northfield High School, Peo-

ples Academy, Rice Memorial High School, Rutland High School, South Burlington High School, South Royalton High School, Spaulding High School, St. Johnsbury Academy, Stafford Technical Center, Twinfield High School, Union High School, Vergennes Union High School, Vermont Commons School, Whitcomb High School, Winooski High School, Woodside Juvenile Rehab Center, and Woodstock Union High School.

Additionally, I would like to thank the schools where an especially large number of students wrote essays. Vermont Commons School and Missisquoi Valley Union High School had more than 25 participants. Green Mountain Technology and Career Center and South Burlington High School both had more than 50 students write essays. Mount Abraham Union High School had more than 100 members of their freshmen class write essays. Rutland High School assigned the contest to their entire freshmen class, with more than 200 students participating.

I would like to thank all of Vermont's teachers and principals for their tireless work educating students and for helping to make the sixth annual State of the Union essay contest a success.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID B. NORRIS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate Mr. David B. Norris, national vice chairman for legislation of Veterans of Foreign Wars, on his retirement after more than three decades of service to California veterans.

A resident of Tracy, CA, Mr. Norris enlisted in the Army in January 1966 and served his country honorably, deploying to Vietnam with the 7th Psychological Operations Group. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with oak leaf cluster, and Good Conduct Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Following his service to the country, Mr. Norris received his associates of arts degree in business from Northwest Missouri State University in 1974 and went on to become a paralegal for Century Law Offices in Costa Mesa and San Ramon, CA, and serve on the city of Tracy planning commission.

Mr. Norris joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 9723 in Okinawa, Japan, and, as a life member, has served on several California and national committees, including as the national chaplain, national chief of staff, and national judge advocate general. He is also a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a life member of the American Legion.

Mr. Norris has been a tireless advocate for veterans and a leading voice on efforts to assist female and homeless veterans. I would like to thank Mr.

Norris for everything he has done to advance the needs of California veterans and wish him and wife, Sandy, all the best as he retires from legislative service with the VFW.●

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA MERKLE

• Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Angela Merkle, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Angela is a graduate of Canton High School in Canton, SD. She recently graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, where she studied government and international affairs. She is a positive and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Angela for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 644. An act to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. DAINES).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4405. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflubenzuron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9939-59-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4406. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benzyl acetate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9941-49-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4407. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9941-69-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4408. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and